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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VI3
8/24/95

Date: August 24, 1995

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SUBJECT: DC Franche Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

POLREP: Initial, #1

State Notification: IEPA notified

Date(s): August 15 to 22, 1995

Delivery Order: 5001-05-652

Response Authority: CERCLA

Start Date: August 15, 1995

Site ID#: OZ

Action Memorandum Status: Approved

NPL Status: non-NPL

Background:

The DC Franche Metal Coatings (DC Franche) site is located at 1401 Wabansia Avenue, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The DC Franche site is an abandoned facility which manufactured custom coatings and finishes for the industrial paint business from 1929 to January 1995. The site is situated in a mixed industrial and residential area.

The site is approximately 5 acres in size and encompasses one large warehouse building containing approximately 875 55-gallon drums, 6,000 containers, and 10 tanks of paints, solvents, and resins. The site is surrounded by a barbed-wire-topped chain-link fence.

The DC Franche site began operations in 1929. The facility's solvent and water-based products consisted of primers, enamels, lacquers, vinyl coatings, stains, polyurethanes, epoxies, latex paints, thinners, and reducers. The facility ceased all operations in January 1995.

On May 4, 1995, a site assessment of the DC Franche site was conducted by Ecology & Environment, Inc., TAT, U.S. EPA OSC Brad Benning, OSC Charlie Gebien, Chicago Department of the Environment (CDOE) representative Pete Badillo, U.S. EPA Enforcement Specialist Bill Ryczek, and Michael Shields from Manufacturers Bank.

TAT performed a site reconnaissance, which included air monitoring in the vicinity of the drums, containers, and tanks. The site reconnaissance confirmed CDOE's observations from their previous

inspections. A total of approximately 875 drums, 6,000 containers, and 10 tanks, all abandoned and uncontrolled, were identified in the facility. Some of the drums and containers were marked with the following labels: "acetone", "toluene", "methyl ethyl ketone", "isobutyl alcohol", "xylene", "cymel 245-8 resin", "propasol solvent", and "isopropyl acetate". Most of the drums were marked "FLAMMABLE LIQUID" or "FLAMMABLE SOLID". One label read "FLASH POINT - 110 °F". Many of the drums appeared to be leaking and in a deteriorating condition. Approximately 400 of the drums were stacked three rows high in the outside bay garage areas next to the loading dock. In a few areas of the building, the roof was leaking water onto the areas where the drums were staged.

Situation:

From August 15 through 18, 1995, the U.S. EPA, TAT contractor, and ERCS contractor conducted site preparatory activities, mobilized to the site, and commenced setup activities.

Actions Taken:

8/15 Initial site walk through conducted by U.S. EPA and ERCS.

8/17-18 Three ERCS personnel mobilized to the site to set the trailers. Utilities were established.

8/21-24 Remaining site personnel mobilize to the site. Crew continues site setup activities. Crew began setup of the decon area including setting the decon and connecting the water supply. Crew began segregation of drums and small containers.

Future Actions:

- Complete site setup decon area.
- Sample and evaluate tank, drum, small containers contents for treatment and/or disposal.
- Empty tanks, drums, and small containers and dispose of all hazardous waste.
- Decontaminate and dispose of all tanks, drums, and small containers.
- Collect and treat or dispose of decon water.

Key Issues:

- None

Estimated Costs:

		Cost	Funds Remaining
ERCS	\$1,454	as of 8/16/95	\$398,546
TAT	\$2,712	as of 8/23/95	\$ 61,288

Status: On-going.